

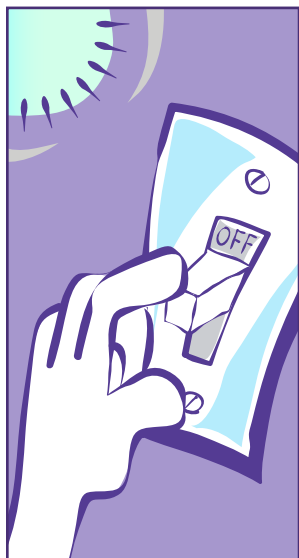
SAVING ENERGY AT HOME

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

PAGE 1

Every day more than 200 million Americans use energy. When you give more thought to how you use energy, it's easier to find ways to save energy.

Saving energy starts with taking responsibility for how you use energy. Here are some things you can do to save energy and help the environment.



Turn things off.

You can save money and natural resources just by turning off lights and appliances when they are not needed. If you leave something on when it isn't needed, your local power plant is still making electricity. And that means more coal is being mined, transported and burned, which is an expensive process to light a room or heat a house when no one is around to use it.



Recycle.

Recycle paper, glass, aluminum, plastic, and other recyclable materials. Recycling saves energy. It takes less than half as much energy to make a product from recycled material than from raw materials. Also, making paper and aluminum from recycled material produces much less air pollution than making them from raw materials. Using non-disposable glasses and cups instead of disposable containers also saves energy. So recycle and reuse as much as you can.

Once you get in the habit, it becomes easy.



Close doors.

Don't leave doors or windows open when they let in air that is too hot or too cold—Your furnace or A/C has to work harder and longer. Close the door when you go outside on hot or cold days, even if you think you'll be out just for a few seconds. Also, get things quickly from the refrigerator.



Spread the word.

Talk to others about saving energy. Encourage your friends and parents to conserve. Work with your teacher and classmates to save energy at school.

SAVING ENERGY AT HOME

WHAT CAN YOUR FAMILY DO?

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Your parents can do all the things you do to save energy. They also can save energy in other ways. Some of these ways may cost more money at first. For example, it costs money to buy new products

that save energy. And it costs money to make energy-saving improvements in your home. But these changes will save energy and money over time. Here are some things your parents can do. You may be able to help them get started.

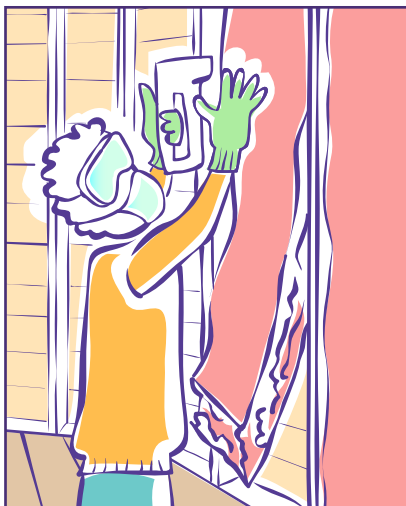


Buy energy-saving products.

Look for the Energy Star rating on all kinds of appliances and electronics. The Energy Star is an endorsement from the Environmental Protection Agency for appliances that save a certain amount of energy

Remember, saving energy starts with you.

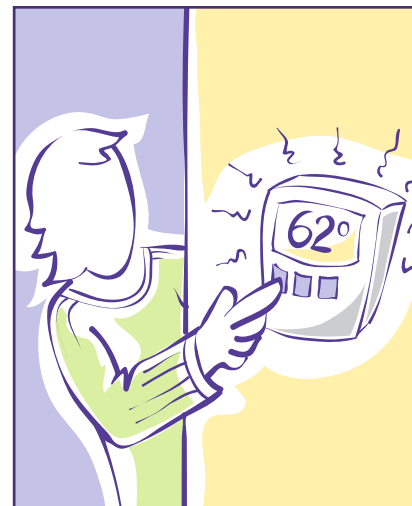
Your efforts and the efforts of others will add up to big energy savings.



Weatherize your home.

Most of the energy we use, as a nation, is to heat and cool our homes. To keep the heat or cool air inside, we can equip both new and existing homes with many energy-saving features. We can add extra insulation in ceilings and walls. We can install special energy-saving windows. And we can put caulking or weather stripping on windows, doors, baseboards, or other places to stop air leaks. Planting trees to shade windows in the summer will help as well.

Xcel Energy provides free or low-cost advice and programs to help homeowners make their homes more energy efficient. For advice or information about programs in your area, click on Residential/Save Energy & Money on the Xcel Energy website at www.xcelenergy.com.



Control temperatures at home.

More energy is used in homes for heating than for any other purpose. Using a programmable thermostat can save you up to \$75 per year. A programmable thermostat automatically turns the temperature up or down. For every one degree you lower your thermostat in the winter, you can save 1% on your energy costs over an eight-hour period, 5 degrees, yields a 5 percent savings.

Energy experts recommend setting your thermostat at 68 degrees during the day in winter. During the summer, leave the thermostat on 78 degrees.